

STAT

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
15 MARCH 1983

WASHINGTON

By MICHAEL J. SNFFEN

Department Releases Records On Nazi Entering United States

Launching its investigation into the relations between U.S. intelligence and twice-convicted Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, the Justice Department on Tuesday released records showing that Barbie entered the United States four times in 1969-70 on an official Bolivian passport.

Allan A. Ryan Jr. assumed command of the investigation and said its purpose would be to "set forth the facts of any relationship between Barbie and the U.S. government from 1946 on, and as much as possible, release those to the public."

Acknowledging that he was unaware at this point of any crimes that may have been committed on which the statute of limitations has not yet run out, Ryan said "our purpose is not tied to prosecutable or criminal conduct" but he said he would address the need for either prosecution or legislation if he uncovered any information warranting either.

Attorney General William French Smith reversed himself Monday under congressional and White House pressure and agreed to order the investigation.

Department sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said Smith had decided early in March that an historical inquiry with little likelihood of prosecution was not a matter for the Justice Department but that members of the National Security Council staff at the White House and some members of Congress had continued to press Smith to act in the case.

Smith said Tuesday that the department had received "the full assurances of other executive agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency, that they will cooperate fully."

Ryan outlined the following questions he intended to investigate:

Did the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps have a relationship with Barbie after the Allied victory in Europe in World War II?

Did U.S. officials shield Barbie from French authorities who wanted to try him for war crimes in 1949 and did they help arrange his flight to Bolivia from Europe in 1951?

Was there a relationship between the U.S. government and Barbie during his stay in Bolivia, which lasted from 1951 until his expulsion from that country last Feb. 6?

What was Barbie doing for the government of Bolivia during that time?

Was there any U.S. involvement in Barbie's four known entries under an assumed name into the United States?

~~CONTINUED~~